

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-15 and 17-20 have been amended herein.

Initially, the Office Action has not acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority or receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents. Applicant submitted certified copies of the priority documents with the Submission of Priority Documents filed October 19, 2004. Acknowledgment of the claim to foreign priority as well as receipt of the certified copies is requested.

Applicant also requests that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed April 26, 2004, and May 18, 2005, and indicate such consideration by initialing and returning copies of the Forms PTO-1449 provided therewith.

Claims 1, 4-15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0174180 (Nunokawa). Claims 2, 3, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nunokawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,568,785 (Edelen et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for effecting printing using a recording head mounted thereto, the apparatus includes communicating means for communication with an information processing apparatus. The apparatus includes control means, discrimination means and communication control means. The control means determines a kind of device among a plurality of kinds in response to a predetermined operation for setting the kind of the printing apparatus, and operable for the kind thus determined. The discrimination means discriminates whether the kind of device is determined or not. The communication control means controls communication with the information processing apparatus by the communicating means in accordance with a result of discrimination of the discrimination means. When a result of the discrimination is negative, the communication control means effects control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus.

As recited in independent Claim 15, the present invention relates to a control method for a printing apparatus for effecting printing using a recording head mounted thereto, the apparatus includes communicating means for communication with an information processing apparatus. The method includes a step of determining a kind of device among a plurality of kinds in response to a predetermined operation for setting the kind of the printing apparatus, and operable for the kind thus determined. The method further includes a step of discriminating whether the kind of device is determined or not, and a step of controlling the apparatus in accordance with the determined kind of device,

and controlling the communication of the communicating means with the information processing apparatus, when a result of the discrimination is affirmative. When the result of the discrimination is negative, the control step effects control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus.

Nunokawa is directed to a printing apparatus and method in which at least one of the ink container, printing medium and printhead can be attached to the printing apparatus unit together with a memory. On the memory is stored an acquisition program for acquiring, via a communication line, a print control program for printing on the printing medium. That is, as understood by Applicant, Nunokawa obtains the print control program from an outside source. Nunokawa is not believed to disclose or suggest at least that when a result of discriminating whether a kind of device is determined or not, control is effected so as to prevent supplying of a signal to an information processing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 15.

Thus, Nunokawa fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Edelen et al. describes providing identification information related to at least one ink jet printhead in an ink jet printer. When printer controller 12 sends an identification string corresponding to a black printhead to a particular printhead position and a mismatch occurs because a color printhead is installed in that position, the controller can generate a mismatch signal to a host computer connected to the printer. The host computer can then generate an error message. Alternatively, the controller can then send

an identification string corresponding to a color printhead to the same position, and if a match then results, adjust its operation to provide color print data to the installed printhead.

Applicant submits that in order for the host computer to generate an error message in Edelen et al., a driver must be installed. If a presumed driver is installed when the kind of device is not determined, the presumed driver may turn out to be wrong, then a correct driver must be installed. In such case, installation of the presumed driver would not be practical. Thus, Applicant submits that in Edelen et al., an error signal is supplied to the host computer upon occurrence of the error. Accordingly, Edelen et al. also does not disclose or suggest that when a result in discriminating whether a kind of device is determined or not is negative, effecting control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus. Edelen et al., therefore, fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nunokawa noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the citation of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 15. Dependent Claims 2-14 and 16-20 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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